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SUBJECT: CLIMATE POSITIONS HARDEN AT 2009 DELHI SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, held February 5 - 7, 2009, focused solely on climate change and the road to the December 2009 UNFCCC climate negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark. DSDS 2009 attracted fewer current heads of state than in 2008 but more big names including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Senator John Kerry, who participated via satellite, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, and Tony Blair who provided a taped message. Government of India participation was sporadic, provided nothing beyond a hardening of already stated climate policy, and was plagued by multiple last minute cancellations. The conference received little media attention and with few exceptions, did little to move the climate debate beyond the entrenched positions of developed and developing countries. Although there was some optimism regarding the new American administration, it was tempered with skepticism as to how far the United States will be willing to go to address climate change. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) is an annual conference hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), an Indian NGO whose Director General is IPCC chairman Dr. R.K. Pachauri. Dr. Pachauri is intent on making DSDS the climate equivalent of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. In fact, many of the participants at DSDS had just come from Davos. The theme of DSDS 2009 was "Towards Copenhagen: an equitable and ethical approach." The conference focused on what a post-Kyoto protocol agreement on climate change should look like. International speakers included: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who received TERI's Sustainable Development Leadership Award; Senator John Kerry; Finnish President Halonen; Ethiopian Prime Minister Zenawi; Kiribati President Tong; Norwegian Prime Minister Stoltenberg; UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer; several former world leaders such as Tony Blair and Kofi Annan, who participated via SA) aEMQo%